

December 11, 1969

G. P.

INTRADEPARTMENTAL
MUDSLINGING:
ANOTHER PEELING OF
THE APATHY ONION?

Periodically, students from various departments of the college attack one another, indignantly charging some department with non-involvement, lack of participation, or improper spirit, whatever that means. Recently such sentiment has been rather heavily-handedly directed at the Art Department by certain Liberal Arts students. Such unjustified partisan feelings are not only harmful to GCC, but it seems to me to be indicative of the misunderstanding among students which might be related to the repeated accusations of apathy used by just about everyone around here to explain almost anything that goes awry.

To use the Art Dept as an example, the present reproaches against them include their apparent disinterest in the rest of the college, their "unwillingness to mix" with other students, and their lack of "contributions" to the college as a whole. I do not think that any of these claims can be substantiated and, more than that, I do not feel that any student if even justified in leveling reproaches of this nature, for such censure assumes a comparison between departments which cannot be made. Students in different departments may not be able to participate in the college community in the same manner. Both the location and the nature of their studies affect the type of relationship a student can maintain with the rest of the college. For instance, the Nursing Department is based in the South

Building and outside work in the public hospital occupies much of their time. Several other departments also require work which places the student outside the college. Thus if participation is measured by membership and work in clubs or organizations, or by attendance at the college programs, then there will indeed be a discrepancy between departmental involvement, but one which can be justified and accounted for.

However, I think that this mutual mud-slinging offers not an explanation of non-involvement and apathy, but rather an excuse for it. When one decides that the blame for anything can be so neatly attributed to another group, he is doing no more than just using them as a scapegoat for the problem. And, because he is able to accuse someone else, the responsibility is lifted off his own shoulders. From here, it is a small step to the reasoning that one needn't be bothered with the affairs of the college for, first, one person's help wouldn't make any difference, and secondly, why should you work if that other group isn't doing a damn thing?

This, then, is my objection to this type of griping among the students. It is not constructive because it offers no solutions; it is self-perpetuating because it offers an easy out of one's own blame in the problem and thus fosters that same attitude which is being fought. Most importantly, it leads to a sense of helplessness which can only hinder student action.

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Greenfield Community College
Library

STUDENT
HOUSING PROBLEMS
AT G.C.C.

While most students at Greenfield Community College, being or school designed primarily for the commuting student, are not aware of the housing problem there are those of us who find it necessary to live closer to the school and soon discover the difficulties involved in finding a place to live. The school itself doesn't provide housing facilities although information on available housing--usually a room in a private home with kitchen privileges can be obtained through Mrs. Stebbins at the Student Personnel Office. These rooms are warm, clean, and fairly reasonable (\$10-\$12 per wk). Unfortunately moving from one family environment to another presents a lot of problems. Part of the "college experience" is usually viewed as a chance not only for a higher education but also as a chance to get away from home and its influences so that new ideas and opinions might be formed. Students who live in homes also find that they are required to fit their (weird) studying habits into the family schedule. See in all, the majority of students who, to, who have taken a room in a private home in the past would not do it again if they would find or afford something else.

The possibility of providing student housing facilities on the new campus is presently being considered but as these plans are still nebulous and there is a question as to where the funds for such a project would come from, by law and definition the would have to come from sources other than state or federal, we would no longer be a community college if the state built housing facilities) it think it is safe to

assume that any project like this is going to be a while in coming and will not provide any immediate alleviation of the problem.

When it was looking for an apartment it took me over 2 months and innumerable dimes spent on useless telephone calls and Greenfield Recorders to finally settle for something that is a hell of a lot smaller and rattier than I wanted. I don't think my situation is unique. There is a condemned building on Congress St. that is presently occupied by students for the same reasons that I am living in the place I am now--either they couldn't find any thing else or what they did find was way above their price range or not being rented to students.

Students for A Better Community is working towards setting up better lines of communication with the people of Greenfield in hopes of promoting better student-community relations. Perhaps something will come of this. It is my own pessimistic opinion that it is going to take more than setting tails to get the people in Greenfield who own apartment buildings to #1 rent to students, #2 keep the buildings there are renting to students in a habitable condition you shouldn't have to rake leaves to get someone to provide you with a 2nd exit in case of fire. Part of the problem of unsuitable housing for both students and low income families can be attributed to the fact that Greenfield does not have a Building Inspector. without a building inspector, Mr. Brickitt from the Board of Health must first receive a complaint before he can condemn a building. Last----the Franklin County Community Action Corp. took Greenfields

(Housing Problems, con't.)
present building code, and checked the housing conditions of low income families and found eighty people in need of better housing. That's eighty people who, if they made a complaint and if their apartment building were condemned, would be evicted and find themselves on the street with no place to go. Motions have been made at town meetings in the past for a building inspector but as of yet any such motion has met with little success.

If Greenfield were to hire a building inspector who is qualified for the position, he would require a high salary and this in turn would create an increase in taxes. In order to receive federal funds from the Model Cities program, Greenfield must first have a building inspector. Hopefully, by next year, pocketbooks being forgotten, a Building Inspector will be voted into the town of Greenfield.

.....Jan.Cookman....

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A REACTION TO: REPULSION

What need is there for this movie? (Note: shown last Thurs. nite in GCC auditorium.) Our eyes are already satiated by the sickness in this world today and by the madness that seems to run rampant in this society. In a massacre in Vietnam, men - boys - were driven by their own madness, anger and frustration, to destroy totally man, woman, child, and even every animal, everything that lived and breathed in that village. Then to see this concocted illusion of death and madness is an excess for me.

We are saturated with it: it is very real to all of us and so

readily recognizable in the world that such movies are not necessary. Had this film given us a deeper insight into the girl's problem and her background - a more composite view of the situation - there might then be some reason for its existence. However, it seemed to me to attempt nothing more meaningful than empty, negative shock.

To be able to create is a special ability, and should be focused on an affirmation of life, not on sheer negativism. Contrast the circles of nothingness in Repulsion with, for example, Report to Greco, by Kazantzakis, which tells of the agony of man's soul, but at the same time lends to the reader some of his exaltation in living. An individual must always remain open to the joy in life and not belabor for no reason the sickness which perverts and destroys its joy and meaning.

Beabeth St.Clair

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COFFEE COUNTDOWN: 30 CUPS LIFTED, 20 TO GO...

In case no one has noticed, this past week there has been a shortage of cups for coffee in the Main Building cafeteria. This is due to some person or persons unknown who saw fit to steal more than thirty cups from the cafeteria during our Thanksgiving Vacation.

On Tuesday afternoon before Thanksgiving when I mopped the floor, there were fifty-five cups on the counter. On the following Monday, when Mrs. Grant opened the cafeteria, there were exactly twenty cups left.

A search of the Main Building turned up a total of two more cups.

(Cup casualties, con't.)

Mrs. Grant is upset by this incident because she bought and payed for most of these cups with her own money. No one told her to buy them, she did it out of kindness. She also doesn't have to serve fresh coffee every day - and after the remaining twenty-two cups have "disappeared" she has said she won't bother with it anymore.

So, whoever took the cups, I hope you enjoy drinking that horrible machine coffee in the snack bar.

Hugh Sears

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STUDY STUPOR? TRY THIS!

For those who dread the idea of buckling down for finals, or for those who seem never to be able to get started studying, consider this as a possibility. Drop over to the Reading Skills Center in the West Building and schedule yourself for a series of study hours. You can schedule hours to suit your own convenience, and Mr. Hannon will be available to provide assistance as to how to go about accomplishing your goals.

The Skills Center now has furniture, by the way, and more people are taking advantage of the assistance available there. Why not drop over, take a look at the place, and inquire about the services available there?

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Students for a Better Community:
Meeting on Monday, December 15,
in room 103.

A LOOK AT THE GRADING SITUATION

There is today in our colleges varying thoughts regarding changes in grading systems and what they should be. It is my feeling that the change in grading must be done on an all or nothing basis, that is, in all schools or none at all and also the same changes or none at all.

It seems absurd to me to even think about a grading system which is unique to a particular school. The problems evolving from the creation of even one new grading system as compared to our present system are vast. Take, for instance, the transfer of a grade of passing from a school with this grading system to a college that used the standard A to F grading system. I will list a few problems that immediately come to my mind:

1. What numerical grade is attached to passing?
2. What happens to the initiative to get on the honor roll?
3. The unambitious student might receive the same grade, passing, as the striving student.
4. Schools with high academic standards would not, with the "passing" system, have a suitable means of knowing if the student were able to meet their study standards.

These ideas are spontaneous and I'm sure that the reader could add a few questions this list suggests to him. The difficulties that arrive from lack of uniformity in grading are multitudinous and well known to most people. If our grading system were not standardized it would be impossible to establish a fair system for acceptance of students to an academic institution, initially or on a transfer. Select-

(Grades, con't.)
ing students for graduate work on a transfer basis would be especially difficult without a standardized grading method.

Even if every school agreed to some of the changes being proposed in our grading system, there would not be a solution to the grading problem created by changes. Any and all changes in our grading system must also be done by all colleges. Take for example one school initiating a grading system using the A to F grading method but at the same time disallowing the use of pluses or minuses. This system would make a grade of B equivalent to eighty to eighty-nine. There is a lot of difference between the marks indicated here for the same grade. Contrast the B grade just given to the B scale of a system using pluses and minuses and you find three grades in the latter (B-, B, B+) to the vague B grade from eighty to eighty-nine percent. If we are going to have numerical grades we should be sure that they are clearly defined.

I have illustrated just two examples where countless others could have been given. My purpose being to make concrete my opinion that we must have a grading system that is equally fair to all students. What is "good for the goose is good for the gander" so to speak. Why should one student be given a numerical grade and another from another school given just a pass or fail grade? Neither are being fairly treated and when a student tries to transfer to a school or apply for a job with pass grades in psychology for a position as psychiatrist, he is liable to feel slighted when he is treated with scepticism by the

personnel director. The student who receives a numerical grade and that grade is only average may envy the pass or fail method. Before we allow changes in our grading system we had best carefully evaluate their overall effects on our educational system as a whole, not just the effect on the individual.

John B. Scanlan

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RIGHT HERE ON OUR STAGE:
BLOOD WEDDING

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, December 11, 12, and 13th at 8³⁰ pm, the GCC Drama Club will present Blood Wedding in the college auditorium. The production will be under the direction of Miss Yolanda Reed, assisted by Gail Terlikoski.

Blood Wedding was written in the 1930's by Garcia Lorca, Spain's most prominent modern poet and dramatist. The play is a folk tragedy, using both blank verse and prose with great dramatic effectiveness.

Cast includes: Dolores Griel, Jim Atkins, Janina Davenport, Esther Morris, Terry Callahan, Ron Frazzin, Sue Begin, Sue Graves, Norm Quinn, Cindi Carver, P.N. Ryan, Richard Chagnon, Chuck Milkey, Gail Terlikoski, Maggie Putnam and Cindy Dunbar. Jim Atkins is in charge of publicity and Bob Blake will do lighting. Refreshments will be served after the production.

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Spaghetti Supper: Put on by Girls Athletic Club. December 16. All you can eat for \$1.00. GCC cafeteria at 5:00 and 6:00.

GLEE CLUB CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Glee Club's annual Christmas program will be held in the college auditorium on Wednesday, December 17th at 11:00 am. There will be a variety of entertainment, from singing to instrumental ensembles.

The program will include "Silver Bells", "Fum, Fum, Fum" - a Cataloian Carol, "I Wish You a Merry Christmas", and other traditional Christmas carols.

The instrumental program will feature Jim O'Shea and Bruce Wilker on their trumpets, Carrie Jenkins and Judy Crosier with a flute duet, and Eva Newberry on the bassoon. The accompanist for the instrumental ensemble will be Elizabeth Bolton.

The program also includes poetry readings under the supervision of Dr. Drabeck.

Jim Atkins

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COMMENTS ON A MASSACRE

Usually a quiet, passive sort, I now feel the need to care and to make others care also. Having read about the massacres in Vietnam and the accompanying photographs recently released, I am forced to make a comment - a brief cry of anger, frustration, or whatever - at our world and what we're doing with it and with ourselves.

A human being of our own age shoots a baby of a few months, barely into the world and totally innocent; a young child, an old woman, anyone in that war, in that country which is so distant that it seems unreal. A picture

of a pile of bodies needlessly destroyed, lives cut off. Are we human beings? Do we feel another person's death? Where exactly is this war, in an Asian country or in everyman's mind, soul, or heart? Three million children die in Biafra and we send two men to a massive rock in the sky. Poverty, hunger, ignorance and misunderstanding; hate, more ABM's, more words, wasted time. Too many are letting go, refusing to see, think, feel, to be hurt. Why are we where we are? We, the people, elect; we, the people, decide what what we, the nation, the government, does.

Is it perhaps a fantasy that we can stop a war - a war not only inside ourselves but among ourselves as well - and build a meaningful existence? The world gets darker; we pollute, kill, and alienate by our uncaring existence, our "psychic smog". Each of us must make a positive commitment if we are to realize our full potential.

Beabeth St. Clair

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CHRISTMAS DANCE

Saturday - December 13 at the New Weldon Hotel. \$3.00 per couple. Tickets may be obtained at the door. 8:30 - 12:00 pm. Semi-formal dress - Surprise band!

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READING PERIOD: January 5, 6, 7. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Final Exams. Faculty members will be in their offices for consultation on these three days. There are no classes scheduled for this period.

GCC BASKETBALL TEAM

The GCC men's Varsity Basketball team started its season on Tuesday Dec. 2nd, under the direction of Coach Don Rice and Faculty Advisor Arthur Hannon. Team members are Tim Kackelmeyer, Ed Thruston, Mitch Bethel, Bill Burns, Leon Lefebvre, Hank Tenney, Bill Sharpton, Rich Ruggerri, John Nardasi, Bill Richardson, Robin Fogden, Dave Halloway, and Lou Thaxton.

The winter basketball schedule is as follows: (Home games played at Greenfield Senior High School Gym.)

Thurs., Dec. 11 - Splfd. Tech.
CC. 8:00 pm.
Tues., Dec. 16 - Northampton
Junior College. 8:00 pm.
Thurs., Dec. 18 - Berkshire CC
8:00pm.
Fri., Sat., Sun. Dec. 26, 27, 28.
Worcester Holiday Tournament
Sat., Jan. 17 - Westchester CC
(N.Y.). 8:00 pm.
Mon., Jan. 19 - Westchester CC
8:00 pm.
Fri., Jan. 30 - Mount Wachusett
CC. 8:00 pm.
Thurs., Feb. 5 - UMass Frosh
6:00 pm.
Sat., Feb. 7 - Quinsigamond CC
8:00 pm.
Thurs., Feb. 12 - Holyoke CC
8:00 pm.
Fri., Feb. 13 - Spfld. Tech CC
7:30 pm.
Tues., Feb. 17 - Mount Wachusett
CC. 7:30 pm.
Fri., Feb. 20 - Berkshire CC
8:00 pm.
Mon., Feb. 23 - Stockbridge
School of Agri. 8:00 pm.
Fri., Feb. 27 - Stockbridge
School of Agri. 8:15 pm.
Tues., Mar. 3 - Western Division
Playoff.
Fri., Sat. Mar. 6,7 - State
Tournament.

Editor's Note: This is the last issue of the first semester and I would like to thank the staff and those who have worked with the newspaper this year. There is a definite need for a paper and this need will become greater as the college grows and settles into the new campus. I would like to see a larger and more organized staff next semester, for the time will soon pass when the news can be gathered by a wild-eyed editor lurking in the hallways, pouncing on anyone who looks at all newsworthy. There have recently been some suggestions to put out an offset paper next semester. I am eager to see such a paper and will offer to merge the Grecc Press with this organization if it should materialize. Good luck on the finals. cp

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Editor: Christine Powers
Staff: Jim Atkins, Beabeth St. Clair, Pat Mirabello, Sue Brissette, Jan Cookman, Hugh Sears, John Scanlan, Maggie Putnam.